United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/954
15 August 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council votes unanimously to set at 30 per cent, level of compensation to be paid by Iraq for damages caused by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait; a second decision, the Council allows Iraq to export oil in an amount not to exceed $1.6 billion to finance its humanitarian needs under tight United Nations control; while in a third decision also adopted unanimously, it demands that Iraq allow full, final and complete disclosure of all weapon sites.

- Secretary-General informs President of Security Council that he will proceed with arrangements for dispatch of survey mission to Cambodia.

- Major-General of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission protests to Iraqi authorities about incident in demilitarized zone.

- United Nations Disaster Relief office reports 88 people killed and 15,000 affected by floods in Romania.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon adopted three resolutions on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

By the first resolution, the Council decided unanimously that compensation to be paid by Iraq, in accordance with resolution 687 (1991), for damages caused by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait should not exceed 30 per cent of the annual value of its oil exports.

By the second resolution, adopted by a vote of 13 in favour to 1 against (Cuba), with 1 abstention (Yemen), the Council authorized all States to permit the import during a period of six months, of oil products originating in Iraq sufficient to produce a sum not to exceed $1.6 billion, subject to a number of conditions.

The full amount of each purchase of Iraqi petroleum or petroleum products would be paid directly by the purchaser into an escrow account to be established by the United Nations and administered by the Secretary-General.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council decided that part of the sum should be made available to finance the pruchase of foodstuffs, medicines and other civilian necessities, with the amount of that allocation to be determined by the Council on the basis of an ongoing assessment of Iraq's requirements and with United Nations monitoring to assure the equitable distribution of the items. Another part of the limited oil revenues -- set at no more than 30 per cent under resolution 705 -- would be paid from the escrow account to the Compensation Fund and to meet the full costs of the tasks involved in monitoring Iraq's compliance with its disarmament obligations and half the costs of the Boundary Commission.

Also by the resolution, the Council asked the Secretary-General to submit, within 20 days, proposed methods for carrying out the relevant provisions. Iraq would be required to provide the Secretary-General and appropriate international organizations, with a monthly statement of its gold and foreign currency reserves.

By the third resolution, the Council unanimously demanded that Iraq provide full, final and complete disclosure, as required by resolution 687 (1991), of all aspects of its programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 km. The Council further demanded that Iraq allow the Special Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and their inspection teams immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas and facilities, which they wish to inspect. It finally demanded that Iraq cease immediately any attempt to conceal, or any movement or destruction of any equipment relating to its nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or ballistic missile programmes.

In a statement before the vote, Mohammad A. Abulhasan, Kuwaiti urged the Security Council and the international community to exert pressure on the Iraqi regime to free the 2,409 Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and nationals of 13 countries, who he said, were still imprisoned in Iraq.

Despite everything the Iraqi people and economy had undergone, Mr. Abulhasan said, the regime had pursued a policy of deception and delay, and it had not wished to resume its obligations or commitments.

Also speaking before the vote, Abdul A. Al-Anbari said Iraq had requested a grace period of five years before starting payment of compensation for damages caused by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait, because it needed the income of exports to pay its immense deficit. He referred to the report of the Under-Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari on the humanitarian situation in Iraq, which had emphasized the high degree of destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure.

* * *

Members of the Security Council have agreed to a proposal by the Secretary-General to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the dispatch of a survey mission to Cambodia.

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The Secretary-General made the proposal in a letter to the Council President, dated 8 August, in which he referred to an agreement, reached at a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) held in June, on an immediate and unlimited cease-fire and to stop receiving outside military assistance. He informed the Council President that the survey mission was requested by the SNC to evaluate ways to control the cease-fire and the end of foreign military aid.

The proposal had also been welcomed by the Co-Chairmen of the Paris Conference on Cambodia and the five permanent members of the Security Council, who in addition had suggested that the mission would begin the process of preparing for the military aspects of United Nations Mission -- to be known as UNTAC -- which will oversee the withdrawal of foreign troops and the holding of the upcoming elections.

* * *

The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) reported today that 88 persons have died in Romania during floods caused by heavy rains.

The UNDRO said the updated casualty figures also indicated that 15,000 persons were affected of whom 8,000 were homeless.

The Romanian Army and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were currently distributing food and other supplies. However, UNDRO said, international assistance was urgently needed in order to rehabilitate and reconstruct the regions most severely struck.

* * *

Major-General Greindl of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) has issued a protest to the Iraqi authorities about an incident yesterday morning in the demilitarized zone between the two countries.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today at Headquarters that the Iraqi police had opened fire at a reconnaissance patrol of Kuwaiti police, who are in the process of reestablishing their presence in the border area, and who were accompanied by UNIKOM personnel.

The spokesman said UNIKOM personnel intervened and, as result, both sides withdrew. There were no injuries and no further firing.

In a separate development, the spokesman said the Secretary-General remained hopeful that an agreement on the release of hostages detained in Israel and in Lebanon could be reached, although he declined to speculate on a time frame. The Secretary-General described the process as "entering the time of quiet diplomacy". The Secretary-General will remain "for the next week or so" in Europe on call if needed and will have continuing contacts with all parties.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/955
16 August 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and South Africa sign landmark agreement on voluntary repatriation of 40,000 South African refugees and political exiles.

- Need to continue and strengthen oil embargo against South Africa reaffirmed at hearing of Intergovernmental Monitoring Group.

* * *

A landmark agreement on the voluntary repatriation of South African refugees and political exiles was signed today by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Republic of South Africa. The agreement, which formally establishes the first United Nations presence in South Africa, came after sixteen months of negotiations.

The main points of the agreement include a comprehensive amnesty for all political offences, the establishment of an adequate and effective UNHCR presence in South Africa and complete freedom of movement for returnees in South Africa.

The United Nations High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, said the agreement marked the "beginning of the end of a 30-year-old human tragedy".

UNHCR expects to establish a presence in South Africa within 10 to 15 days. An estimated 40,000 South African refugees are currently living in dozens of countries worldwide, some of them for more than 30 years. Initial costs estimates for their return range from $35 million to $40 million.

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The need to continue and strengthen the oil embargo against South Africa was affirmed yesterday at a hearing organized by the Intergovernmental Group concerned with monitoring the supply of oil and petroleum products to South Africa.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

In an opening statement, the Chairman, Anthony B. Nyaki (United Republic of Tanzania), said that despite recent suggested reforms in Pretoria, the system of apartheid still remained firmly in place. He felt the group should consider ways to render the oil embargo more effective and the conditions under which it could be lifted.

Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, and Godwin Mutale S. Mfula (Zambia), representative of the Chairman of the Front-line States, both addressed the problems of the premature lifting of sanctions by the European Economic Community (EEC) and the United States.

A series of experts testified on the lack of progress towards ending apartheid. Particular emphasis was placed on the lack of negotiations on a constitution to create a non-racial democracy. The unchanged policy towards exiles, the holding of political prisoners and the continuing violence were also cited as evidence of Pretoria's unwillingness to institute a process of irreversible change.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/956
19 August 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses surprise and deep concern over recent developments in Soviet Union.

- Officials from UNHCR and International Organization for Migration appeal to international community for economic assistance to Albania.

- Anti-Apartheid Committee Chairman welcomes agreement on South African exiles and refugees.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has expressed surprise and deep concern over recent developments in the Soviet Union. However, he said, it was too early to say how the future of that country would be affected.

The Secretary-General made his comments to the press in Portugal early this morning where he is taking a rest from his diplomatic efforts with regard to the hostage situation.

A United Nations spokesman said in a statement today that the Secretary-General had expressed the profound hope that violence and civil strife would be avoided, and that the events would not bring harm to the Soviet people, nor derail the democratization process in Eastern Europe. In this connection, he said, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stressed the importance that the Soviet Union respect all its international obligations.

The spokesman went on saying that, while observing that developments in the Soviet Union were essentially internal matters, the Secretary-General had noted "the strong and most remarkable support" that the United Nations and he personally had received from President Gorbachev over the past years -- a support that had helped this Organization immensely and had led to the hope that the Charter's vision of the world could be realized.

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(more)

For information media—not an official record

Officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) today made an urgent appeal to the international community for economic assistance to the Albanian people.

A United Nations press officer reporting from Geneva said Sergio Vieira de Mello of the UNHCR, and Rolf Jenny of the IOM made the appeal upon their return from a three-day mission in Tirana. The two officials went to Albania in the wake of the recent exodus of some 20,000 Albanians fleeing to Italy and Malta.

At a press conference in Geneva they said massive foreign investment rather than humanitarian assistance was needed to avert the threat of social anarchy in the country. Their contacts with a wide spectrum of Albanian Government and opposition leaders convinced them that the Albanians were not political refugees and could return without fear of persecution. The reason for the tragic flight of Albanians was economic, Mr. Vieira de Mello said. The Albanian agriculture had returned to primitive levels, causing its economy to be in a state of "catastrophe". New economic laws had passed through Parliament; more were to come, but they could only be implemented if initial capital inputs were available, he said.

* * *

The Special Committee against Apartheid has welcomed the agreement reached on Friday, 16 August, between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the South African authorities regarding the voluntary repatriation of South African refugees and political exiles.

In a statement today, Committee Chairman Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria) expressed satisfaction that returnees granted immunity would be "allowed to peacefully return to South Africa without risk or arrest, detention, imprisonment or legal proceedings whether civil or criminal in respect of any political offence".

He expressed hope that the final agreement as well as the strict implementation of the Accord would further promote peaceful conditions and free political activity which were required for the future negotiations.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/957
20 August 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General appeals to all leaders in Soviet Union for "peaceful and constitutional solution" to present crisis.

- Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Somalia announces re-establishment of United Nations presence in Somalia.

- Permanent Representative of Cuba calls on United Nations Member States to raise issue of lifting United States sanctions against his country during forthcoming General Assembly session.

- Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination discusses World Conference on Human Rights, scheduled for 1993.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar pointed out today in a statement that in his comments made yesterday on developments in the Soviet Union, he had expressed the profound hope that violence and civil strife would be avoided and that the process of democratization would not be derailed. Given the heightened tension today, he said, he urgently appealed to all leaders in the Soviet Union to exert the maximum restraint so that a peaceful and constitutional solution could be found to the present crisis facing the country.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman said today that the Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Somalia, Osman Hashim, had announced the re-establishment of the United Nations presence in Somalia as of 15 August. Mr. Hashim and senior officials of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) had joined in officially relaunching United Nations humanitarian programmes suspended in January this year, "due to the difficult situation" in Somalia.

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For information media—not an official record

The Ambassador of Cuba to the United Nations, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, has called on Member States of the United Nations to take up the question of lifting the United States sanctions against his country during the forthcoming General Assembly session beginning in September. At a press conference at Headquarters today, he said many countries supported the idea and thought the present situation should be ended.

Mr. Quesada drew attention to a resolution adopted on 2 August by the Latin American Parliament, composed of representatives of every legislative body in Latin America, which asked for the ending of the economic blockade against Cuba.

He also called on the international community to put pressure on the United States to stop the economic blockade of his country.

* * *

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has considered the nature of its contribution to the preparatory process of the World Conference on Human Rights, scheduled for 1993.

The General Assembly decided last year to convene a high level World Conference to take such actions as assessing the progress made in human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and identifying the obstacles to further progress in that area.

Preparations for the Conference will start in September in Geneva.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/958
21 August 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General says he is encouraged by latest press reports on situation in Soviet Union.

- Secretary-General responds to joint United States and Soviet communiqué urging him to take personal leadership of negotiating process to solve conflict in El Salvador.

- United Nations Member States owe $824 million to Organization for 1991 and prior years; an additional $440 million are outstanding for nine current and past peace-keeping operations.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today in a statement that he had continued to follow developments in the Soviet Union very closely. He said that while he was saddened by the loss of life, he was relieved and encouraged by the latest reports which he said would seem to indicate that the crisis was on the way to being resolved in a constitutional manner. He said he was deeply impressed by the courage of those who had stood for democratic values.

The Secretary-General made the statement at noon before hearing unconfirmed press reports indicating further positive developments in Moscow.

* * *

The Secretary-General has thanked the Soviet Union and the United States, in a letter of 17 August, for their support for his efforts in El Salvador and for their offer to play an active role in supporting the peace talks.

The Foreign Ministers of the two States had urged the Secretary-General, in a joint communiqué, to take personal leadership of the negotiating process to solve the conflict in El Salvador.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said in his letter that his Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto, was acting entirely on his behalf and

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For information media—not an official record

with his full support. However, he said, he was prepared to become involved "directly and personally".

* * *

Member States to the United Nations owe the Organization some $824 million for 1991 and prior years, and an additional $440 million are outstanding for nine current and past peace-keeping operations, according to the latest report on the status of contributions.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents that the report of 31 July showed that during July, Colombia and Malawi had joined "the clean slate club" of member countries who had paid in full for 1991 and all prior years. A total of 45 nations now enjoyed that distinction.

Of the peace-keeping operations, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is most gravely affected with more than $250 million in outstanding assessments.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/959
22 August 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses "profound satisfaction" at Soviet President Gorbachev's return to power; wishes him "every success in the great and challenging tasks that lie ahead".

- International Court of Justice in the Hague announces death of Judge Taslim O. Elias of Nigeria.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has expressed "profound satisfaction" at Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's return to power.

Last night in Portugal, where he is currently on vacation, he told the press that he was confident the Soviet authorities would resume work on establishing democracy in the country after the failed coup. He expressed hope that, after this experience, the legitimate authorities in the Soviet Union would continue their endeavours to establish democracy in their country firmly and definitely. He was confident that President Gorbachev would continue the policy which, he said, had been contributing so effectively to the creation of a climate of peace, justice and understanding.

In a personal message to the Soviet President, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar expressed the wish that Mr. Gorbachev would succeed in the "great and challenging tasks that lie ahead" in his effort to "restructure the political and economic life of the Soviet Union on a democratic basis." The Secretary-General went on to say that the "courage and determination" of the Soviet People to persevere in such a course, as witnessed in the past days, was "truly inspiring".

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents at headquarters that the Secretary-General would return to Geneva on 25 August and would begin a series of meetings on 26 August, as previously scheduled.

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For information media—not an official record

The International Court of Justice in the Hague, Netherlands, has announced the death of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias of Nigeria.

A member of the Court since 1976, Judge Elias had been Vice President and President of the International Body.

Before he joined the International Court of Justice, Judge Elias served his country as Attorney General, Minister of Justice and Commissioner of Justice. He was 77.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/960
23 August 1991

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- United Nations expert team reports "considerable progress" in discussions with Iraqi authorities on possible Iraqi involvement in chemical weapons destruction programme.

- Secretary-General to go to Geneva to attend preparations for United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to chair United Nations inter-agency meeting, and to meet with POLISARIO representatives.

- United Nations Children's Fund appeals for $1 million for emergency assistance to Albania to alleviate "extremely serious situation" due to malnutrition.

- World's nations to meet at 1994 population conference to focus on relationship between population and sustained development.

- Anti-racism Committee concludes that Government of Israel has not implemented International Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination or Geneva Convention in occupied territories.

* * *

The Special Commission set up by the Security Council's resolution 687 (1991) to oversee the disarmament of Iraq has made considerable progress in efforts to involve Iraq in all aspects of the chemical weapons destruction programme. A team of experts from the Special Commission visited Iraq from 11 to 14 August to discuss the possible option of direct Iraqi participation.

Head of the mission, Mr. J. Molander from the Special Commission, said in a statement that discussions were carried out in a positive atmosphere which undoubtedly contributed to the progress made and the understanding achieved.

The subjects discussed by the mission and the Iraqi authorities included the interlinked topics of collection and transport of the chemical weapons,

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For information media—not an official record

defusing and rendering munitions explosively harmless and checking that munitions were defused and explosively inert.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar is scheduled to go to Geneva on Monday, 26 August, where he will attend the third plenary session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

During the afternoon, he would chair an inter-agency meeting on ways of improving the emergency response capacity of the United Nations system. On Tuesday, Mr. Pérez de Cuellar was expected to meet with representatives of Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) regarding developments in Western Sahara. He is scheduled to return to New York on Wednesday, 27 August.

* * *

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today launched an appeal for $1 million to provide emergency assistance to Albania for the next six months to alleviate what it described as "an extremely serious situation".

The Agency said in a press release that the provision of food and medical supplies was needed urgently to alleviate the plight of children and women as the Balkan nation was struggling with a severe economic crisis after nearly 50 years of isolation.

Jim Mohan, head of a UNICEF mission that left Tirana yesterday after a week of field visits and consultations with the Government described hospitals with "badly malnourished children, some in an acute state".

* * *

The proposal to convene an International Conference on Population and Development was approved by the Economic and Social Council during its recently concluded summer session in Geneva. The Conference is scheduled for 1994 at a site to be determined.

According to the Secretary-General of the Conference, Dr. Nafis Sadik, the international gathering will address essentially topics such as population growth; policies and programmes; population environment and development; migration and urbanization; women and population dynamics; and family planning and family health.

World population, approximately 5.4 billion today, is expected to reach 6.2 billion by the year 2000, with more than 90 per cent of the increase taking place in the developing world. Many analysts now believe that world population will reach 10 billion by the year 2050 and could continue to grow for another century unless substantial progress is made to reduce fertility.

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The first Intergovernmental Population Conference was held in Bucharest in 1974 followed in 1984 by a conference in Mexico City.

* * *

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reiterated yesterday in Geneva that the Government of Israel had not implemented the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination or the Geneva Convention in the occupied Arab territories.

The Committee took that decision after concluding its review of Israel's sixth periodic report outlining its efforts to combat racial discrimination.

The 18-member expert body also expressed great concern over the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and stated its regret that Israel's report on the implementation of the anti-discrimination Convention had not been prepared in accordance with its guidelines.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/961
26 August 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General tells press after meeting regarding hostage situation that "things are moving at a good pace"; commenting on question of Western Sahara he says "situation has improved and tension has diminished".

- United Nations African Group and Organization of African Unity propose names of 6 candidates for new Secretary-General.

- Decolonization Committee condemns collaboration with South Africa and foreign economic interests impeding decolonization as it concludes work for 1991.

- Fifth United Nations European Regional NGO Symposium on Question of Palestine opens in Vienna.

- President of General Assembly visits Kiev, Warsaw and Vienna.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar commented today in Geneva on the situation of detainees held in Lebanon and Israel, saying things were "moving at a good pace."

He told correspondents that his emissary to Israel, Giandomenico Picco, had briefed him about his efforts in the area. The Secretary-General maintained the hope that something "very important could happen in the sense of seeing all the detainees freed". He said he would receive an emissary from Iran, most likely Ambassador Kharazzi, tomorrow, and that he had already been in touch with the Israelis.

In reply to questions, the Secretary-General said he was expecting a breakthrough by the end of the month or the beginning of next month. The problem was one of an exchange, he said.

On the question of Western Sahara, the Secretary-General told the press that his worries earlier today about the situation in the region had been

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For information media—not an official record

"greatly diminished". He said his previous concern had been based on information regarding military activities in the area and that the situation had improved and the tension diminished after his appeal this morning.

Earlier today, the Secretary-General had expressed concern over recent developments in Western Sahara and called for "immediate, determined and constructive action in full cooperation with the parties."

The Secretary-General is scheduled to meet in Geneva with representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) on Tuesday.

* * *

In the run-up to the forthcoming election of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations, the African Group has proposed the names of six candidates.

The names have been put forward by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) through their representatives, in a joint letter of 22 August to the President of the Security Council, signed by Chairman of the African Group, Ambassador Nabil Elaraby of Egypt, and Ambassador Ibrabim Gambari of Nigeria.

In the letter, the two Ambassadors expressed the hope that the international community will give an African an opportunity to serve the United Nations at a critical time when new opportunities have arisen for the Organization to discharge its world responsibilities due to the current developments.

The election for the new Secretary-General will be held in the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, scheduled to begin 17 September.

The names of the six African candidates are: Ghali Boutros of Egypt, Bernard Chidzero of Zambia, Kenneth Dadzie of Ghana, James Jonah of Sierra Leone, Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Nguema Francois Owono of Gabon.

* * *

The Special Committee on Decolonization has concluded its work for 1991 by recommending that all countries intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations to ensure full implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. The text was adopted by a vote of 20 in favour to none against, with 4 abstentions.

In separate votes on different paragraphs of the same resolution, the Committee noted with great concern the extensive links and collaboration between the apartheid regime of South Africa and certain countries, in the political, diplomatic, economic, nuclear, military and other fields. It also condemned the growing military and nuclear cooperation between South Africa and Israel.

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In a separate development, the Special Committee reaffirmed that administering Powers should ensure that the existence of military bases and installations did not hinder the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories from exercising their rights to self-determination.

* * *

The Fifth United Nations European Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, on the role of Europe in securing Palestinian rights, began today in Vienna.

Opening the two-day Symposium, the Chairman of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal), said that by their myriad of valuable activities, European non-governmental organizations had contributed to creating a greater awareness of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and to mobilizing support for the adoption of concrete measures. The countries of Europe could play an important role in advancing the common objective. As representatives of the conscience of the European public, non-governmental organizations could have an important influence on the official opinion and policies in Europe.

She informed the Symposium that the Israeli authorities had denied an exit permit to a panelist, Sa'eb Erakat, Associate Professor of Political Science at An-Najah National University in Nablus, thereby preventing him from attending the Symposium. She protested against such arbitrary decisions which infringed upon the right of the Palestinian people to move around, and said a Member State should not prevent persons from taking part in United Nations meetings.

Organized by the Palestinian Rights Committee, the Symposium aims to increase awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and to create a more favourable atmosphere for the full implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

* * *

The President of the General Assembly, Guido de Marco (Malta), is in Warsaw today on a three-day official visit. He is expected to meet with the Polish Foreign Minister and other senior officials.

The President arrived in Warsaw Sunday from Kiev, where he met with Ukrainian government officials and visited the site of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Both visits were made in his dual capacity as President of the General Assembly and as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Malta.

The President is to conclude his current tour with a visit to Vienna from 27 to 29 August, where he will attend the Eighth United Nations International Negotiating Group Meeting on the Question of Palestine in his capacity as Assembly President. He will make a statement to the meeting on Wednesday, 28 August.

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4134P

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/961/Corr.1
29 August 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

CORRECTION

On page 2 of Press Release DH/961, issued on 26 August, the name and nationality of one of the six African candidates for Secretary-General should have been listed as follows: Bernard Chidzero of Zimbabwe.

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For information media—not an official record

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/962
27 August 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General continues diplomatic efforts to resolve situation of detainees in Israel and Lebanon; says United Nations is only channel for negotiations.

- Security Council holds consultations to discuss long-term verification of disarmament of Iraq, situation in Cyprus, and procedural aspects of election of new Secretary-General.

- Secretary-General accepts invitation to pay official visit to Iran on Tuesday, 10 September.

- Secretary-General expresses serious concern about present state of world economy and environment in opening address at third round of preparations for 1992 Earth Summit.

- Secretary-General withdraws proposal to reduce military strength of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission due to increased level of activity in demilitarized zone between two countries.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar met today at noon with Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, as part of his diplomatic efforts to resolve the situation of detainees held in Israel and Lebanon.

Following the meeting, he told correspondents that through the Iranians he was able to communicate with the different groups holding the hostages in Lebanon. Therefore, he said, the Iranian Government was not his interlocutor, it was a "channel" between him and the groups holding detainees. He had not heard anything during his meeting which would make him lose hope in the resolution of this situation and he would continue his efforts with dedication, patience and perseverance.

Asked if he would be passing on information to the Israelis about their servicemen held in Lebanon, or if the Israelis themselves would be directly in

(more)

For information media—not an official record

touch with the groups holding detainees, the Secretary-General replied there was "only one channel, that is the United Nations". The Israelis were committed to work through the United Nations, he said.

* * *

The Security Council met this morning in closed consultations to discuss the long-term verification of Iraqi disarmament in accordance with the provisions of resolution 687 (1991) setting the terms for the cease-fire in the Gulf conflict.

The Council had before it two reports: on nuclear arms (S/22872), and on chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles (S/22871), respectively. Both reports remain under continuing review by the Council.

Members of the Council also briefly discussed Cyprus and procedural aspects of the election of the new Secretary-General.

The Council is scheduled to hold consultations tomorrow morning on the election of a new member of the International Court of Justice, with a view to holding a formal meeting shortly afterwards.

* * *

The Secretary-General has accepted an invitation from the President of Iran to pay an official visit to the country. Mr. Perez de Cuellar will be travelling to Teheran on Tuesday, 10 September.

* * *

The third round of preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development began yesterday in Geneva.

Opening the general debate, the Secretary-General said that the Conference, known as the Earth Summit, would be one of the major events in 1992. It would provide a forum for finding ways to guarantee economic development and social progress for all peoples while protecting the ecological health of the planet.

He expressed his serious concern about the present state of the world economy and the environment. One human being out of five was living in absolute poverty. There had hardly been any progress in the last 10 years and in some countries the situation had even deteriorated, he said.

Also addressing the meeting, the Secretary-General of the Conference, Maurice Strong, said that with only nine months remaining, much remained to be done by Governments before they would be ready to take the necessary decisions in Brazil.

At its third session, scheduled to conclude on 4 September, the preparatory committee is negotiating specific proposals for action for

(more)

sustainable development of environmental resources and in such areas as health, education, human settlements, food security and environmental emergencies, including the impact of the recent war in the Persian Gulf.

These proposals -- known collectively as Agenda 21 -- are based largely on action plans endorsed by previous United Nations conferences, but were drawn up with the idea of dealing with the environmental and development aspects of each issue on an integrated basis.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/963
28 August 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General holds meeting in Geneva with his Executive Delegate on humanitarian situation in Iraq, which, he says, continues to be "extremely serious".

- Secretary-General says he is confident that situation in Western Sahara will calm down and that hostilities will cease on 6 September.

- Secretary-General calls on creditor countries to cancel private or commercial debt owed by African countries in report on economic situation in Africa.

- Security Council sets date of election of new Justice in International Court of Justice for 5 December.

- General Assembly approves budget of $49.5 for second United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

- Anti-Apartheid Committee criticizes Deutsche Bank plan to issue public bond for South Africa.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar met today in Geneva with his Executive Delegate, Sadruddin Aga Kahn, and the Executive Delegate's Special Assistant in Baghdad, Bernt Bernander, to discuss the humanitarian situation in Iraq.

Following the meeting, the Secretary-General told correspondents that he was working on a report to the Security Council on the needs of the Iraqi population, and that he was still waiting for a positive reaction from Iraq. He emphasized that the internal situation in Iraq continued to be extremely serious with regard to food and medicine requirements of the population.

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For information media—not an official record

Asked about his meeting yesterday with the head of the Soviet Delegation to the 1992 Earth Summit, the Secretary-General replied that he had received a letter from Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Republic, expressing hope that the United Nations would help him in reconstructing Russia.

On the question of independence of the other republics of the Soviet Union, the Secretary-General pointed out that from the United Nations point of view, Ukraine and Beylorussia were already full members of the Organization. It was up to them to decide if they wanted to be separate countries from the Soviet Union or not.

* * *

Following a meeting yesterday in Geneva with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), the Secretary-General told correpondents that he was confident that the situation in Western Sahara would calm down and that the cease-fire would begin as scheduled on 6 September. He further expressed confidence that the full implementation of the peace plan, which had been approved not only by the parties but also by the Security Council, would begin with the cease-fire.

Earlier in the week, the Secretary-General had expressed concern over press reports indicating military activity in Western Sahara and had called for "immediate, determined and constructive action in full cooperation with the parties."

* * *

The Secretary-General has called on creditor countries to cancel all debts owed by African countries to enable that continent to fight its critical economic problems. The call was made in his report to the General Assembly on the economic situation in Africa.

The report reviews the United Nations five-year Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development, which covered the period from 1986 to 1990, and is prepared for a session of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to take place at Headquarters from 3 to 13 September.

The Secretary-General said in his report that African countries could not be expected to achieve genuine development given a total debt burden which exceeds $270 billion, the servicing of which was taking over 30 per cent of total exports. He also expressed hope that recent decisions by several creditor countries to write off some of the debts contracted by least developed countries would encourage other creditors to do the same.

The Secretary-General called for a new global compact to help African States revive their economies.

A special study, requested by the Assembly for the Committee's session, calls for the establishment of a fund -- the African Diversification Fund -- to provide technical assistance and financial resources to help reduce the

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chronic dependence of African countries on primary commodities for their foreign exchange.

* * *

The Security Council today decided that its election to fill the vacancy on the International Court of Justice following the death of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias of Nigeria on 14 August, shall take place on 5 December, and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

* * *

The General Assembly yesterday approved the budget of $49.5 million for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission -- known as UNAVEM II -- to cover its operations in the period, 1 June to 31 December.

The Mission was set up by the Security Council on 30 May to verify peace accords reached on 1 May between the Angolan Government and the opposition forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

The Secretary-General had recommended in a report to the Council that the Verification Mission's mandate be enlarged and prolonged in response to the new developments in Angola. He stated that the Mission had successfully fulfilled its original mandate set out by the Council in 1988 -- namely, to verify the redeployment to the north and the staged and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, according to a timetable agreed by Angola and Cuba in December 1988.

* * *

The Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, today in a statement deplored press reports that the German-based Deutsche Bank would be seeking to organize the first public bond issue to South Africa since 1985.

A public bond issue, he said, would signal a return of South Africa to international capital markets, thus reducing the pressure on Pretoria to bring about the end of apartheid through negotiations aimed at the adoption of a new constitution.

The Special Committee against Apartheid considers entirely premature the lifting of financial pressure on South Africa at this stage, and appeals to all States to adhere fully to the Programme of Action contained in the United Nations consensus Declaration, he said.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/963/Corr.1
28 August 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

CORRECTION

In Press Release DH/963, issued on 28 August, the fifth headline should read as follows:

^ General Assembly Approves budget of $49.5 million for second United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

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For information media—not an official record

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/964
29 August 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

@ Secretary-General returns to New York; tells correspondents that his 10 September visit to Iran is not related to hostages.

@ Massive United Nations emergency airlift operations -- largest ever -- continue in Horn of Africa.

@ Kuwaiti Army Liaison Office informs United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission about clash between Iraq and Kuwaiti military personnel on Bubiyan Island just outside demilitarized zone; Secretary-General to make report on the incident to the Security Council.

@ Fifth European regional NGO Symposium ends session, calling on all European Governments to support international peace conference on Middle East.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar commented today at headquarters on his current efforts to free the remaining hostages held in Lebanon and Israel saying that he expected something to happen during the next few weeks. He told correspondents at Headquarters that he was continuing his quiet efforts and that things were moving ahead.

On a question about his visit to Iran on 10 September, the Secretary-General replied it was not related to the hostage situation but that he would be discussing the situation of prisoners of war held since the Iran-Iraq conflict ended in 1988, and questions relating to the situation in Afghanistan.

* * *

In one of the largest emergency food airlifts ever operated by the United Nations, the World Food Programme (WFP) is continuing to use a total of nine airplanes for round-the-clock flights to deliver more that 10,000 metric tonnes of food aid per month to people in the Horn of Africa.

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For information media—not an official record

The airlifts into Sudan and Ethiopia began at the end of July and have so far delivered almost 7,000 metric tonnes of emergency food aid. While there are an estimated 8 million people in need of food assistance in Ethiopia, the airlift is aimed at the 1.2 million refugees and returnees in the Ogaden region and the 300,000 demobilized former soldiers in Tigre. In Sudan, the airlifts are reaching people in the south who have returned from Ethiopia, and others cut off by fighting. Airlifts are also reaching people in the north who are otherwise inaccessible.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman said today that the Kuwaiti Army Liaison Office yesterday had informed United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) about a clash between Iraqi and Kuwaiti personnel on the eastern shore of a small island, Bubiyan, 3 kilometres outside the demilitarized zone. UNIKOM immediately contacted the Iraqi Liaison Office and prepared for a reconnaisance by air. This was delayed by weather conditions and then by a warning from the Kuwaiti army liaison that Kuwaiti aircraft were engaging Iraqi personnel in the area of the incident.

Speaking to correspondents, the Secretary-General said that the situation was now under control and that he would issue a report on the incident to the Security Council.

* * *

Participants in the Fifth United Nations European Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine have called on all European Governments to support the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. They also strongly affirmed that the Palestinian people must be represented by their chosen representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Concluding a two-day meeting in Vienna on Tuesday, the Symposium declared that it was crucially important for all European Governments to play a more active role in securing a settlement of the Middle East conflict. They rejected Israel's attempt to decide which Palestinians should be involved in international gatherings concerned with peace, as well as that Government's attempts to interfere with Palestinian representation.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/965
30 August 1991

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Kuwait protests to the UN Security Council at alleged Iraq's armed infiltration on its territory. Iraq refutes the charge and says it is fabricated.

- Secretary-General invites President Cristiani of El Salvador and the General Command of FMLN -- Farabundo Marti Liberation Front for El Salvador -- to United Nations Headquarters, for consultations to break deadlock in current negotiations.

- Eighth United Nations International NGO meeting on Palestine concludes session; calls for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the UN.

- Preparatory Committee for the 1992 Earth Summit begins debate on the cross-sectoral issues of human settlements.

- European Community welcomes UNHCR agreement with South Africa for return of South African refugees and exiles.

- The Preparatory Commission for Law of the Sea concludes its Ninth session by reviewing progress made in subsidiary commissions.

* * *

Kuwait has protested to the United Nations Security Council the reported violation of its territory by Iraqi forces. In a letter to the President of the United Nations Security Council, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mohammad A Abulhasan, stated that there had been an attack by armed Iraqis on the island of Bubiyan, which had resulted in clashes. Mr. Abulhasan said that the Iraqis attacked with heavy weapons using two armed boats, supported by reinforcements of military boats. Kuwait's Air Force had countered the attack and had allegedly destroyed seven boats and its forces had taken 43 "elements" in civilian clothes as prisoners.

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For information media—not an official record

The Kuwaiti Ambassador described the incident as premeditated and planned, and requested the Security Council to take decisive measures so that such acts were not repeated.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Charge d'Affaires, Sabah Talat Kadrat, in a letter to the Security Council, said that the Kuwaiti allegation was a "fabrication" and "without any foundation" and that Iraq had not violated the Council's resolutions. He said would cooperate with any commission of inquiry to establish the facts.

* * *

The Secretary-General has invited President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador and the General Command of FMLN -- Farabundo Marti Liberation Front of El Salvador -- to United Nations Headquarters for consultations on 16 September, in order to break the deadlock preventing the current negotiations between both sides. Both President Cristiani and the General Command have accepted the Secretary-General's invitation.

The consultations will focus on the question of guarantees and conditions for the reintegration of FMLN members into the society.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), opened another regional office in that country. One of the functions of the office will be to receive complaints about violations of human rights.

* * *

Two United Nations meetings on Palestine -- The European Regional Non-Governmental Organization Symposium and the Eighth United Nations International meeting -- have ended their sessions in Vienna. The meetings were convened by the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights, in response to a request by the General Assembly.

The European Regional NGO Symposium concluded with a call to all governments to support the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East and it strongly affirmed that the Palestinian people must be represented at all conferences by their chosen representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The international NGO meeting also called for the convening of the International Peace Conference under the United Nations auspices with participation of all parties including the PLO and Israel on an equal footing. The final Declaration considered it most urgent that the United Nations provide immediate and sustained protection for the Palestinians under occupation, and urged the establishment of an ad hoc United Nations Commission to facilitate the exercise by the Palestinians of their inalienable rights.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, in a message to the international meeting, expressed concern about the continued uprising in the

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occupied Palestinian territory, the intifadah, which he said was a matter of serious concern. He described the situation in the Middle-East as volatile, for which reason, he said, he had maintained constant contact with parties in the area.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, meeting currently in Geneva, has begun its debate on the cross-sectoral issues of human settlements based on a report prepared by the Conference Secretary-General Maurice Strong.

Speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, the representative of Finland said that there were three main reasons which justify taking human settlement issues into consideration in the Earth Summit context. First, he said, a safe and sound living environment was a basic human need and right. Secondly, problems in the man-made environment had serious consequences for the state of the natural environment. Thirdly, the human settlements sector could provide tested instruments for addressing environmental problem through land-used planning and integrated settlement management.

The representative of Ghana pointed out that the objective of the draft decision on human settlements was to "get development back into the Earth Summit process and redress the current imbalance in the debate".

* * *

In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, the 12 Member States of the European Community said that they welcomed the agreement reached between the South African Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the process of the return of refugees and political exile to South Africa. According to the European Community, that agreement removed an important obstacle to progress towards substantive negotiations on a new Constitution for a democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

Finally, the Community and its Member States expressed their hope that all outstanding questions could be resolved in order to enable negotiations to begin as soon as possible.

* * *

The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea had concluded its resumed ninth session at Headquarters by hearing reports on progress made by its subsidiary commissions.

Four Special Commissions are discussing questions related to the problems of land-based mineral producing States, arrangements for the start-up of the Authority's own seabed mining arm, formulation of a seabed mining code and various documents for establishing the Tribunal. A plenary on the Authority is preparing recommendations for setting up the Authority.

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Both the Authority and the Tribunal are to begin operation when the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea enters into force. Sixty ratifications are needed for that to occur; the total stands at 48 as of 9 August.

During the three-week summer session, the Commission approved the application of Interoceanmetal Joint Organization for registration as a pioneer investor in seabed mining. The firm, a consortium sponsored by Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Soviet Union, is the sixth pioneer investor. China, France, India, Japan and the Soviet Union have already registered as pioneer investors.

At the closing meeting today, the developing countries expressed disappointment with the lack of progress in resolving a number of outstanding issues and called for flexibility on the part of the industrialized nations to resolve those matters, which include the transfer of technology, seabed mining production policy and various budgetary and financial concerns.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/966
3 September 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Ambassadors of United Kingdom and France convey to Secretary-General letter of request of Baltic States to become members of United Nations.

- Secretary-General calls on international community to strengthen compact with African States as stipulated by United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986 - 1990.

- Secretary-General says "modest gains" have been recorded in integrating women since Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women entered into force ten years ago.

- Future nuclear power strategy is theme of International Atomic Energy Agency conference in Vienna.

* * *

The Ambassadors to the United Nations of the United Kingdom and France today at noon conveyed to Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar letters of requesting admission to the United Nations from the Baltic States.

Earlier today the Secretary-General told correspondents at Headquarters that he had observed with interest the decision of the United States to recognize the independence of the three Baltic States: Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. He said the application for membership of the United Nations would have to go to the Security Council first and then to the General Assembly for final approval.

Speaking to the press after the presentation of the letters, British Ambassador Sir David Hannay said efforts were under way to admit the three States to the United Nations in time for the forthcoming session of the General Assembly and that such a step would be "historic". The Security Council was now holding consultations to discuss the matter.

The Ambassador of France, Jean-Bernard Merimee, is the President of the Security Council for the month of September. He succeeds Jose Ayala Lasso of Ecuador.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General today called on the international community to organize "smaller, freely entered partnerships or compacts" between individual African States and their chosen development partners, in order to make the partnership "more operational".

Addressing the opening meeting of the Ad Hoc committee of the Whole on the Final Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986 - 1990, he said the economic and social situation in Africa had actually deteriorated over that five-year period.

The Secretary-General said his report, which he submitted to the Committee last week, had offered suggestions, including the identification of targets in key areas, in order to improve the economic situation of the continent. For example, he said, African countries must seek to improve at least a 6 per cent annual growth rate, meaning that development assistance should be increased to $30 million by 1992, and then grow at the rate of 4 per cent annually until the year 2000.

* * *

The Secretary-General has called on the countries who have yet to become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to do so this year -- the tenth anniversary year of the Convention.

In a statement to mark the anniversary of its entry into force, he said the Convention was the first human rights instrument to focus comprehensively on the rights of women. Called by some a Magna Carta for women, the treaty expressed in clear language what the framers of the United Nations Charter meant when they determined "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women", the Secretary-General said.

There are now 108 States parties to the Convention.

* * *

Nuclear power safety strategy for the future is the theme of an international conference which is being held this week at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) headquarters in Vienna.

The 300 participants in the Conference are expected to discuss safety issues on which international consensus would be desirable. Among the safety issues to be addressed are the fundamental principles for the safe use of nuclear power, treatment of nuclear power plants built to earlier safety standards, and the final disposal of radioactive waste.

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The conference is presided over by the German Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Klaus Töpfer.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/967
4 September 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General informs President of Security Council of his intention to begin deployment tomorrow of 240 United Nations observers to verify 6 September cease-fire in Western Sahara.

- United Nations investigation of 28 August incident on Bubiyan Island just outside demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait finds no evidence of alleged shooting.

- Need for democratization, literacy, efficient use of resources is stressed in Ad Hoc Committee's review of UN African Recovery programme; proposals include world conference on African debt, reduced military expenditures by African governments.

* * *

About 240 persons including 100 military observers and a small medical team are expected to begin arriving in Western Sahara tomorrow as part of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today that the Secretary-General had decided to begin deployment of the observers to locations indicated in his 19 April report on the operation in time for the cease-fire expected to take effect from 6 September.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General had informed the Security Council President of his intentions as laid out in his report, and taking into account the fact that the parties have accepted 6 September as date for the cease-fire.

Ten observation posts had been chosen for the deployment of about 10 observers each, reaching a total of 240 persons, including the 100 military observers, the rest being given functions with command, control, logistical support and communications.

It was understood, the spokesman said, that the complete deployment of MINURSO would only commence once the activities foreseen in the calendar of

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For information media—not an official record

the plan were sufficiently advanced. The observers would arrive in El Aiun tomorrow, 5 September, in order to be in place in the advance post for the supervision of the cease-fire on Friday. About 50 military observers as well as 15-20 civilians will travel to the area tomorrow, and the same number will travel on Friday.

* * *

An investigation of an incident last week in the island of Bubiyan, just outside the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, has found no evidence of firing at the location, nor any weapons on the Iraqi boats.

The investigation was undertaken by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) -- the peace-keeping force charged with overlooking the demilitarized zone between the two countries.

According to Kuwaiti reports, firing broke out between Iraqi and Kuwaiti military, when a Kuwaiti Coast Guard detachment took custody of a number of Iraqi fishing boats and their crews in the waters off Bubiyan Island.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said in a report to the Security Council of 3 September that the UNIKOM team interviewed Kuwaiti airforce pilots, who stated that on the day of the incident after the Coast Guard detachment had left the area with the captured vessels, they had engaged and sunk seven Iraqi boats off Bubiyan. They said they did not know from where those boats had come.

The Secretary-General reported that UNIKOM Major-General Greindl and his staff were continuing their investigation of the incident.

* * *

Democratization of African institutions and efficient use of resources were key aspects of African recovery, speakers said this morning as the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly continued its assessment of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (1986-1990).

Support was expressed for the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes, which maintained that a healthy, secure and literate population was essential to an economic upturn. One speaker suggested the convening of an International Conference on Africa's External Indebtedness. Another stressed that appeals for a more equitable distribution of global wealth must be accompanied by credible national policies.

Several speakers said high levels of military expenditures should be reconsidered by the African States in the context of national resource distribution. A consolidated approach to external and internal obstacles to development based on recommendations of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Community and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was recommended.

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